

Application No.: 09/762,387

Docket No.: 21900-00020-US

**REMARKS**

The Office Action and the prior art relied upon have been carefully considered. Applicant notes the indicated allowance of claims 3-5, 13-17, 19-23, 25 and 26 with appreciation.

By virtue of the foregoing Amendment, claim 9 is being canceled.

Claims 10 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Eto et al. (USP 5,701,581).

However, Applicants do not agree with the Examiner for the following reasons. Eto et al. merely disclose TDM (time division multiplexing) for performing bidirectional transmission of video signals. More specifically, when transmitting video signals through a network, time slots are provided by a CCM (camera control unit) and a camera for effecting TDM. On the contrary, the present invention defined by claim 10 was made for switching between a plurality of data streams supplied through a network so that data stream switching can be performed without interruption or cutting off. In this respect, the fifth embodiment shown in Fig. 8 indicates switching between data streams from two devices 11A and 11B is effected by the packet transmission control means 15 so that data stream is supplied to the device 16 after switching.

Furthermore, the present invention defined by claim 10 aims to prevent a decoder from breaking down due to large amount of data caused by insertion of "I" frames when switching between data streams. On the other hand, Eto et al. aim to prevent data transmission along a network from breaking down. Moreover, according to Eto et al. time slot control in TDM is performed at the CCU side, whereas in the present invention, data stream amount is controlled at the encoder side.

Furthermore, according to Kato et al., compression rate is increased so as to vary transmission timing thereby determining data transmission. On the contrary, according to the present invention the amount of data of "P" pictures is slightly reduced so that the decoder will

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be able to decode video data with margin time even if the data amount increases due to the insertion of "I" frames on switching.

From the above it will be understood that the present invention is different from Kato et al. with respect to the object of the invention as well as the structure.

As to claim 6, Applicants wish to point out that Kato et al. does not disclose insertion of "I" frames as well the structure where insertion of "I" frames is performed by the control from the decoder side or the CCU side.

From the above, it is the applicants position that claims 10 and 6 are not anticipated by Kato et al.

Claims 18, 24/18 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 16, 22/16 respectively. Checking claims 16 and 18, it has been found that translation of claim 16 is incorrect. In order to correct claim 16, claim 16 has been amended. Amended claim 16 recites that when said designation time is compared with said current time and these agree with each other, sending out of compressed image data of I frames is terminated. On the other hand claim 18 recites that when said designation time is compared with said current time and these agree with each other, compressed image data of I frames is sent out. It is respectfully requested to withdraw the double patenting objection.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21900-00020-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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